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General and complete disarmament: problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus

Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Haiti, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Turkey, Ukraine and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: revised draft resolution

Problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus

The General Assembly,

Mindful of contributing to the process initiated in the framework of the United Nations reform to make the Organization more effective in maintaining peace and security by giving it the resources and tools it needs for conflict prevention, peaceful resolution of disputes, peacekeeping, post-conflict peacebuilding and reconstruction,

Underlining the importance of a comprehensive and integrated approach to disarmament through the development of practical measures,

Taking note of the report of the Group of Experts on ammunition and explosives,[1]

Recalling the recommendation contained in paragraph 27 of the report submitted by the Chairman of the Open-ended Working Group to Negotiate an International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons,[2] namely to address the

[1] See A/54/155.

[2] A/60/88 and Corr.2.

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issue of small arms and light weapons ammunition in a comprehensive manner as part of a separate process conducted within the framework of the United Nations,

Underlining the challenges posed to law enforcement authorities in affected countries in regulating possession of conventional weapons and access to their ammunition and preventing illicit trafficking accordingly, and the consequences that may result from inadequate control over them,

Noting with satisfaction the work and measures pursued at the regional and subregional levels with regard to the issue of conventional ammunition,

Recalling its decision 59/515 of 3 December 2004 to include the question of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus in the agenda of its sixtieth session,

1. *Encourages* all interested States to assess, on a voluntary basis, whether, in conformity with their legitimate security needs, parts of their stockpiles of conventional ammunition should be considered to be in surplus;

2. *Recognizes* that the security of stockpiles must be taken into consideration and that appropriate controls with regard to the security and safety of stockpiles of conventional ammunition are indispensable at the national level in order to eliminate the risk of explosion, pollution or diversion;

3. *Appeals* to all interested States to determine the size and nature of their surplus stockpiles of conventional ammunition, whether they represent a security risk, if appropriate, their means of destruction, and whether external assistance is needed to eliminate this risk;

4. *Encourages* States in a position to do so to assist interested States in a bilateral framework or through international or regional organizations, on a voluntary and transparent basis, in elaborating and implementing programmes to eliminate surplus stockpiles or to improve their management;

5. *Encourages* all Member States to examine the possibility of developing and implementing, within a national, regional or subregional framework, measures to combat illicit trafficking in conventional ammunition;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States regarding the risks arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus and regarding national ways of strengthening controls on conventional ammunition, and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-first session the item entitled "Problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus".